THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) There is at present no concrete proposal to implement a Mid-day Meal Programme for elementary school children throughout the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Mathematics in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Government Schools

2575. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether study of mathematics has been made compulsory in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Government Schools in Delhi at Secondary level;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether teaching of Mathematics is optional at Secondary level in some schools of Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government are aware that text of Mathematics is very difficult;

(f) whether Government are also aware that private tutors are charging as high as Rs. 600/- for coaching of Mathematics;

(g) whether Government propose to make study of Mathematics optional at Secondary level; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The study of Mathematics is compulsory for all schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, including Government Schools in Delhi and Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(c) and (d) It is not generally optional. However Patrachar Vidyalaya candidates are allowed to offer Home Science/Commerce in place of Mathematics. Likewise, Blind, Deaf and Dumb candidates also have the facility to offer an alternative subject in lieu of Mathematics in view of their special needs.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Government does not have any such data as private tution would be a matter of voluntary private contract.

(g) No, change is contemplated in the position stated in reply to parts (c) and (d) above.

(h) Mathematics is an important component of general education.

Health nutrition and educational inputs for children

2576. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the UNICEF report titled "State of the World's Children Report" recommending that Indian Government should provide basic health nutrition and educational inputs to the children; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.